

May 12, 2008

Mary Gum, John Parker  
175 Mosquito Rd.  
Florence, MT 59833

Dear Commissioner Driscoll,

Thank you for your continued work on our county's zoning project. From our attendance at a few meetings we are certain that the lack of progress and even civility is frustrating.

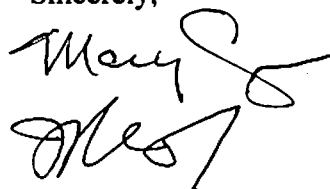
We have been residents of Ravalli County since 1979, living in the same house on 20 acres south of Florence. Although sometimes we wax nostalgic for the good old days when the river wasn't so crowded, our growth has brought prosperity to this county. However, it is absolutely necessary to control this growth-and zoning is the only way to do this. We are completely in favor of zoning this county, and we appreciate the opportunity for input. After viewing the maps at the Florence Open House we are strongly in favor of Map A, featuring less density on the northern edge of the county. We have many reservations about the proposed Aspen Springs Development and would prefer that it never be approved.

It seems that developers of large subdivisions should help with the infrastructure costs. They certainly put a huge strain on roads, schools, fire, aquifer, etc., etc., and it is quite likely a financial necessity that they shoulder some of the cost. They are certainly making plenty of money on their sales. We feel that fair and reasonable impact fees should be part of any subdivision plans.

We would also like to voice our approval of the stream setback proposals. We own a house south of Hamilton on the Bitterroot River, and although it was built years ago, it is set back a considerable distance from the river, and would meet all of the setback requirements. One of our neighbors would like us to cut all of the riparian growth, as he has, but we have steadfastly refused. We understand river dynamics and realize that if this is done by many people the river and fishery will change forever.

Thank you again for all of your hard work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mary Gum' followed by a flourish, and then 'John Parker' in a more stylized script below it.

Mary Gum  
John Parker